

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A consuming device for effecting a specific function by using a content of an information package containing a plurality of charged contents while permitting a user to get a refund in response to the amount of actually
5 used contents, the consuming device comprising:

means for using said content of said information package;

means for storing information to know whether each of said charged contents has been used so far;

10 means, responsive to a determination that said content to be used has never been used, for registering to the effect as said information; and

means, responsive to a determination that the user has already got said refund and said content to be used has never been used, for prohibiting a use of said content to be used.

15 2. A consuming device as defined claim 1, further comprising means, responsive to a refund request from the user, for sending a signal indicative of said refund request and a user ID of the user to a vendor side from which the user has bought said information package.

20 3. A consuming device as defined claim 1, wherein said means for storing information comprises means for storing a list of identifiers (IDs) of the used contents having been used so far, and wherein said registering means includes means for adding an ID of said content to be used.

25 4. A consuming device as defined claim 2, wherein said means for prohibiting a use of said content includes a flag indicative of whether the user has already got said refund.

5. A consuming device as defined claim 4, wherein said means for sending a signal indicative of said refund request includes means for setting said flag to 1.

6. A consuming device as defined claim 1, further comprising selection means for permitting the user to select, as said content, a desired one of said charged contents, said selection means including means for displaying the price of said selected content.

7. A consuming device as defined claim 1, further comprising means, responsive to a predetermined input by the user, for displaying an expected amount of a refund that the user could receive at present.

8. A navigation system that uses a map of an optical disc containing a plurality of charged maps of data and permits a user to get a refund in response to the amount of actually used maps, the navigation system comprising:

means for using said map of said optical disc;

means for storing information to know whether each of said charged maps has been used so far;

means, responsive to a determination that said map to be used has never been used, for registering to the effect as said information; and

means, responsive to a determination that the user has already got said refund and said map to be used has never been used, for prohibiting a use of said map to be used.

9. A navigation system as defined claim 8, further comprising selection

means for permitting the user to select, as said map, a desired one of said charged maps, said selection means including means for displaying the price of said selected content.

5 10. A navigation system as defined claim 9, wherein said selection means comprises means for permitting the user to define an area and wherein said means for displaying the price of said selected content includes means for calculating said price on the basis of the amount of data included in said selected area.

10 11. A navigation system as defined claim 10, wherein said means for calculating said price includes means for correcting said calculated price according to the elapsed time from release of said optical disc.

15 12. A navigation system as defined claim 8, wherein said means for prohibiting a use of said map includes a flag indicative of whether the user has already got said refund.

20 13. A navigation system as defined claim 12, further comprising flag setting means for permitting the user to set said flag so as to cause said flag to indicate that no new map is available.

25 14. A navigation system as defined claim 13, further comprising means, responsive to a refund request issued from the user after said setting of said flag, for sending a signal indicative of said refund request and a user ID of the user to a vendor side from which the user has bought said information package.

15. A navigation system as defined claim 14, further comprising:
means for permitting the user to issue a flag resetting command;
means, responsive to a reception of a notice of a refund fee, for asking
the user if the user agrees to pay said refund fee;

5 means, responsive to an agreement by the user, for prompting the user
to do a further operation to reset said flag; and
means, responsive to said further operation, for resetting said flag.

16. A program, run on a computer, for effecting a specific function by
10 using a content of an information package containing a plurality of charged
contents while permitting a user to get a refund in response to the amount of
actually used contents, the program comprising the functions of:
using said content of said information package;
storing a list of IDs of charged contents having been used so far in such
15 a way as prevents said list from being altered by any person; and
if said content has never been used, adding an ID of said content to
said list.

17. An information package for use in a computer based system, the
20 information package comprising:
a plurality of charged contents;
identifiers (IDs) assigned to respective charged contents;
a program for effecting a specific function by using one of the charged
contents and permitting a user to get a refund in response to the amount of
25 actually used contents, the program comprising the functions of:
using said content of said information package;
storing a list of IDs of charged contents having been used so

far in such a way as prevents said list from being altered by any person; and

if said content has never been used, adding an ID of said content to said list.

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